

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/710,306

Examiner

Kambiz Abdi

Applicant(s)

SAKO, KAZUE

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 23 January 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-7, 9-14, and 16-22 (Re-numbered as 1-19).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

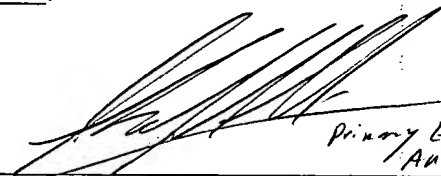
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Primary Examiner
AU 3621

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Text of all the office actions previously forwarded to the applicant as well as all the responses to such office actions has been incorporated by reference.

- Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been canceled.
- Claims 1, 9, and 16 have been amended.
- Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-22 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-22 are allowed over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is U.S. Patent 6,285,990 to David K. Lee et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,058,384 to Perry A. Pierce et al. and U.S. Patent 6,427,139 to Perry A. Pierce. Lee discloses a method of reissuing digital tokens in an open metering system. Pierce discloses a method of removing postal funds from a postage meter and a postal accounting unit that generates a digital signature, and through a host PC sends to a data center the amount of the postal funds removed from the postage meter and the digital signature.

4. In regards to independent claims 2, 9, and 16 the closes prior art of record when taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the step of;

"a verifying means that is part of the stamp issuing apparatus, for receiving a digital certificate for making an electronic revenue stamp invalid, said digital certificate containing a digital signature of said receiver, and verifying whether said digital certificate is valid or not by using an identifier of said receiver and without communication with a data center;

an amount increasing means for increasing said prepaid amount by an amount equal to the value or cost of said invalidated electronic revenue stamp; and

an invalid electronic revenue stamp recording means for recording receipt of said digital certificate."

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5. Claims 3-7 are dependent upon claim 2, claims 10-14 are dependent on independent claim 9, claims 17-22 are dependent on independent claim 16, and thus have all the limitations of independent claims 2, 9 and 16 and are allowable for the same reason.

Conclusion

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kambiz Abdi** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6702**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at **(571) 272-6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see

<http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(571) 273-6702 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Examiner in the

**Kambiz Abdi
Primary Examiner
AU 3621**

Knox Building, 50 Dulany St. Alexandria, VA.

February 2, 2006

